

Application No.: 10/525,674

Docket No.: 13111-00002-US

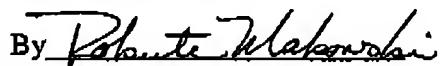
and all the groups were searched by the International Search Authority and the International Examination Authority even with a finding of lack of unity for claim 15. Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction requirement should be withdrawn even under restriction practice. As stated in § 803 of the M.P.E.P. “[i]f the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.” (M.P.E.P. § 803, emphasis added). Since the search has already been conducted by the International Search Authority and the International Examination Authority, there would be no undue burden on the Examiner to examine the entire application.

Conclusion

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be reconsidered and withdrawn.

This response is accompanied by a Petition for a two-month Extension of Time and a fee sheet authorizing payment of the extension fee. If any additional fee is due, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 13111-00002-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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